

B1 phosphate in the form of a powder having a size of not more than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , a 3 to 15% by weight aqueous solution of a binder in an amount of 2 to 4 times the weight of the powder.

2. (Twice Amended) A process for producing porous spherically-shaped bio-ceramics as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calcium phosphate is hydroxyapatite, tricalcium phosphate, calcium dihydrogenphosphate, tetracalcium phosphate, octacalcium phosphate, or a mixture thereof.

3. (Twice Amended) A sustained drug release product obtained by forming the porous spherical-shape bio-ceramics obtained according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the pores are impregnated with a drug.

4. (Twice Amended) A sustained drug release product as claimed in claim 3, wherein, after the drug is impregnated into the porous bio-ceramics, the impregnated parts are plugged by said bio-ceramics, whereby the sustained release time of the drug is controlled.

5. (Twice Amended) A process for producing porous spherically-shaped bio-ceramics comprising:

bringing a starting material for bio-ceramics into contact with a low temperature medium, wherein the starting material is obtained by adding to a calcium phosphate in the form of a powder having a size of not more than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , a 3 to 15% by weight aqueous solution of a binder in an amount of 2 to 4 times the weight of the powder, followed by freeze drying to form a freeze dried product and; thereafter sintering the resultant freeze dried product.

B2  
Sub C  
TI. (Amended) A process for producing porous spherically-shaped bio-ceramics as claimed in claim 5, wherein the calcium phosphate is hydroxyapatite, tricalcium phosphate, calcium dihydrogenphosphate, tetracalcium phosphate, octacalcium phosphate, or a mixture thereof.